



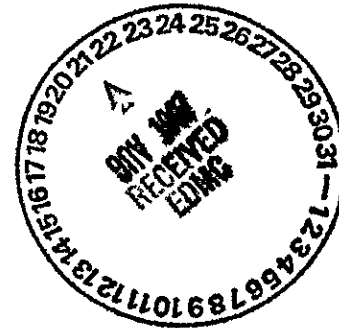
Department of Energy  
Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550  
Richland, Washington 99352

JUL 18 1997

97-WSD-143

Mr. Chuck Clarke  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Seattle, Washington 98101

Mr. Tom Fitzsimmons, Director  
State of Washington  
Department of Ecology  
Olympia, Washington 98504



Dear Messrs. Clarke and Fitzsimmons:

CHANGES TO HANFORD FEDERAL FACILITY AGREEMENT AND CONSENT ORDER (TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT) MILESTONE M-44-00 (TANK WASTE CHARACTERIZATION), M-45-00 (TANK CLOSURE), M-51-00 (HIGH-LEVEL WASTE VITRIFICATION), AND M-60-00 (LOW-LEVEL WASTE VITRIFICATION)

Attached please find the following:

- The Tentative Agreement in Principle (Attachment 1).
- The Resolution of Dispute for Milestone M-44-00 (Attachment 2).
- A Public Involvement Fact Sheet (Attachment 3).
- Change Control Form M-44-97-03 (Attachment 4), Change Control Forms M-45-97-04 (Attachment 5), M-51-97-01 (Attachment 6), and M-60-97-01 (Attachment 7).

Attachments 1 and 2 and the change control packages are the culmination of many hours of collaborative and partnering work between the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) and the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) to realign the tank waste characterization milestones to meet existing and future tank waste characterization conditions at Hanford.

Please sign the signature block provided in Attachments 1 and 2 to indicate your Agreement in Principle to this change request. Return a copy of each signed document to George Sanders, Administrator, Hanford Tri-Party Agreement, RL.

If you have any questions concerning the contents of this package, please contact Dave Dougherty, Ecology on (509) 736-3047 or Jim Poppiti, RL on (509) 376-4550.

Sincerely,

John D. Wagoner  
Manager

WSD:JAP

Attachments (7)

# DRAFT

# Milestone M-44-00, Tank Waste Characterization

*U.S. Department of Energy - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Washington State Department of Ecology*

July 1997

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) are seeking public comments on proposed modifications to the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement of Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement). The proposed changes identify sampling and analysis requirements based on tank waste characterization needs. A 45-day public comment period will begin August 1, 1997, and end September 15, 1997. Negotiators from DOE and Ecology are available upon request to provide briefings to interested organizations.

To request a copy of the change package, or to submit comments, please contact one of the following agency representatives:

Suzanne Dahl, Ecology: 509-736-5705  
Carolyn Haass, USDOE: 509-372-2731

## BACKGROUND

A Tri-Party Agreement milestone change is proposed to revise the strategy for existing Major Milestone M-44-00: "Issue Tank Characterization Reports (TCR) based on process knowledge, prior characterization data, and validated empirical data acquired after May 1989 for 177 Hanford high level waste tanks," due September 30, 1999.

The proposed change resulted from an extensive review of progress on the milestone to date through a partnering effort between DOE and Ecology. It represents the next logical step in

providing a systematic and integrated sampling and analysis program. As tank projects have matured, their waste information needs have been refined. This milestone change will allow characterization sampling and analysis efforts to be tailored to meet these needs. An additional benefit of the change is that the progress of sampling and analysis efforts will be immediately apparent and easily measurable.

Additionally, target dates have been added to Milestone M-45-00, "Complete Closure of All Single Shell Tank Farms"; M-51-00, "Complete Vittrification of Hanford High Level Tank Waste"; and M-60-00, "Complete Pretreatment and Immobilization of Hanford Low Activity Tank Waste." These target dates will require the Retrieval and Disposal/Privatization projects to develop Data Quality Objectives (DQO) required by their projects. DQOs define the quantity and quality of data to be collected to ensure that programmatic needs are met.

## TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT CHANGES

The major milestone change revises the number of tanks to be sampled each year. The *original* milestone requires a set number of tanks to be sampled each year. However, the sampling efforts necessary to meet this requirement cannot be fully tied to the projects' needs for tank waste information. This situation has increased sampling and analysis costs, and the projects' information needs are not fulfilled in the most effective manner. Therefore, the *proposed change* removes the requirement for sampling a predetermined number of tanks, and links sampling and analysis activities directly to the projects' tank waste information needs. Specific changes to the milestone are:

- ◆ Delete existing milestones that require planning and reporting of sampling and

analysis for a predetermined number of tanks per year.

- ◆ Replace the above noted milestones with new milestones requiring DOE to issue characterization deliverables consistent with identified program needs. These needs will be defined in a Waste Information Requirements Document to be provided annually to Ecology. This document will identify annual characterization deliverables for safe storage, retrieval and disposal of tank waste.
- ◆ Add target dates that require the Retrieval and Disposal / Privatization projects to develop DQOs required by their projects. Requirements for work under the Privatization Contract are not affected by this change.

## **IMPACT OF THE CHANGE**

This change package refines the tank waste characterization data collection process. It should not increase yearly funding requirements for the Tank Waste Remediation System Characterization Project, nor will due dates for other Tri-Party Agreement milestone be affected.

For more information on the proposed modifications, you may call the Hanford Cleanup Toll Free Line at: 1-800-321-2008, or contact DOE's Hanford Home Page at : [www.hanford.gov](http://www.hanford.gov).

*Copies of the change package can be obtained for public review and/or copying at the following Tri-Party Agreement Information Repositories:*

**Gonzaga University  
Foley Center  
East 502 Boone  
Spokane, Washington  
(509) 528-4220 ext. 3829**

**Portland State University  
Branford Price Millar Library  
Science and Engineering Floor  
SW Harrison and Park  
Portland, Oregon  
(503) 725-3690**

**Washington State University Tri-Cities  
Public Reading Room, Room 130 West  
100 Sprout Road  
Richland, Washington  
(509) 376-8583**

**University of Washington  
Suzzallo Library  
Government Publications Room  
Seattle, Washington  
(206) 543-4664**